

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for mapping a hierarchical data format with descriptors to a relational database management system, ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

[[~~-~~]] separating the descriptors into portions of a plurality of common formats;

[[~~-~~]] storing the portions of the plurality of common formats in relations in the relational database; ~~and~~

[[~~-~~]] storing information describing ~~the~~ a descriptor structure in the relations together with the portions of the plurality of common formats; and

wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes an indicator for a hierarchical level of at least one of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and an indicator for ~~the~~ a position of a next upper hierarchical level of ~~portions of a common format~~ portion of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

2. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes at least one of descriptor numbers, ~~and relative and/or~~ relative positions of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and absolute positions of the portions of a the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

3. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing independent relations for the common formats.

4. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a descriptor index in the relational database, wherein the descriptor index ~~allowing to store~~ allows storage of additional information for ~~every~~ each of the descriptors.

5. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 4, wherein the descriptor index comprises at least one of descriptor numbers, absolute positions of the descriptors within the relations ~~and/or~~ , and unique identifiers for the descriptors.

6. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchical data format comprising the descriptors corresponds to ~~the~~ an Extensible Markup Language.

7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the common formats comprise at least one of elements, attributes and text.

8. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the common formats comprise text which is divided into string values and integer values.

9. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the common formats further comprise namespace information.

10. (currently amended) ~~Database~~ A database model for mapping a hierarchical data format comprising descriptors to a relational database ~~management system,~~ wherein it uses a method according to claim 1 , wherein the database model uses a method comprising the steps of:

separating the descriptors into portions of a plurality of common formats;

storing the portions of the plurality of common formats in relations in the relational database;

storing information describing a descriptor structure in the relations together with the portions of the plurality of common formats; and

wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes an indicator for a hierarchical level of at least one of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and an indicator for a position of a next upper hierarchical portion of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

11. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for at least one of reading from and/or and writing to recording media, wherein it uses a method according to claim 1 or a database model for mapping a hierarchical data format comprising descriptors to a relational database management system the apparatus is operative to perform steps comprising:

separating descriptors into portions of a plurality of common formats;

storing the portions of the plurality of common formats in relations in a relational database;

storing information describing a descriptor structure in the relations together with the portions of the plurality of common formats; and

wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes an indicator for a hierarchical level of at least one of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and an indicator for a position of a next upper hierarchical portion of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

12. (new) The database model according to claim 10, wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes at least one of descriptor numbers, relative positions of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and absolute positions of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

13. (new) The database model according to claim 10, wherein the hierarchical data format comprising the descriptors corresponds to an Extensible Markup Language.

14. (new) The database model according to claim 10, wherein the common formats comprise at least one of elements, attributes and text.

15. (new) The database model according to claim 10, wherein the common formats comprise text which is divided into string values and integer values.

16. (new) The database model according to claim 14, wherein the common formats further comprise namespace information.

17. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes at least one of descriptor numbers, relative positions of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors, and absolute positions of the portions of the plurality of common formats within the descriptors.

18. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the common formats comprise at least one of elements, attributes and text.

19. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the common formats comprise text which is divided into string values and integer values.

20. (new) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the common formats further comprise namespace information.